



EL PASO AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD GREENWAY PROJECT FACT SHEET



Overview

The El Paso and Southwestern Greenway will be a six-mile long multi-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians. The pathway will extend along a corridor that was once used by the railroad, from north of downtown Tucson, through the City of South Tucson to the Kino Sports Complex. The new path will be car-free and will connect to other regional bikeways and to many of the neighborhoods that the path travels through.

In 2005, a preliminary concept plan for the Greenway was developed by the Drachman Institute at the University of Arizona. This document will provide guidance for the master planning process that is currently underway. Some of the objectives of the plan are to promote connectivity and recreation; coordinate with other active projects to ensure compatibility; reflect local/regional identity and character; celebrate local history; and serve as a catalyst for positive development.

The Greenway is documented in the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, the City of Tucson General Plan, the Downtown Infrastructure Plan, the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) transportation plan, the Eastern Pima County Trails Master Plan and the Parks, Open Space and Trails (PROST) plan. The cost for planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, site improvements, traffic devices and construction is estimated to cost \$8 to \$10 million.

Location

The El Paso and Southwestern Greenway alignment begins near the western terminus of the University Bikeway, near Main Avenue and University Boulevard. It travels south and passes along the west edge of downtown, parallel to Interstate 10, and continues south past St. Mary's Road, Congress Street and 22nd Street. The Greenway enters the City of South Tucson at approximately 29th Street and briefly continues south before diverting on a southeast angle along the old railroad corridor. It proceeds past the Greyhound Park where it exits the City of South Tucson. The Greenway then travels generally east, crosses Park Avenue, then southeast to cross Kino Boulevard and ends at the Kino Sports Complex/Ajo Detention Basin.

Recent Activity and Progress History

- 2006 – Pima County voters approved \$3.26 million as part of the RTA Plan to fund the development of the El Paso and Southwestern Greenway.
- 2006 – The City of Tucson was awarded a Federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant for the construction of the Greenway from 22nd Street to Cushing Street.
- 2007 – Consulting team, headed by SAGE Landscape Architecture & Environmental was selected to design a master plan for the Greenway.
- 2007 – 'The Bridges' master planned development commits to building one mile of the Greenway through their project.
- 2008 – Design and construction of the downtown Fire Central project will include a portion of the Greenway.

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